

**SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:**
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Railway to privatise vital segments of operations" appearing in the Economic Times dated September 25, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the names of the sectors proposed to be privatised and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that privatisation of operations does not adversely affect the passenger services in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Railways are exploring the possibilities of commercial exploitation of railway land. The details of the scheme for privatisation of the existing departmental catering unit have not yet been finalised.

Study Report of Tehri Dam

813. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the study report prepared by the INTACH on "Evaluating the Tehri Dam-An extended cost benefit appraisal"; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-

ESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The main findings of the study are:

- Large investment in Tehri Dam does not seem justified in view of the risk of dam collapse;
- Useful life of the reservoir is likely to be 62 years on the basis of prevailing silt load data;
- The cost of power generation is 73 paise per unit against the cost of 35 paise per unit estimated by the proponents; and the return on the power component would be only 4.52% rather than 6.89% as reported.
- The benefit-cost ratio for irrigation component is 1.28 and not 3.68 as reported; and benefit-cost ratio for the project is 0.56 : 1 which is likely to be even more adverse with increase in cost.

(b) These findings have been discussed by INTACH in a public meeting but the project authorities are proceeding on the basis of the detailed project reports.

Setting up of a Population Commission

814. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Population Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). To impart a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme, a draft Action Plan has been

evolved in consultation with the State Government/Union Territories Administration. One of the suggestions being considered in the said draft Action Plan is the constitution of a Population Commission, details of which are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

Rail Accidents

815. SHRI PANKAJ CHO-
WDHARY:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHU-
RIA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:
SHRI GEORGE FERNAN-
DES:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been substantial increase in rail accidents/derailments since July 1991 till date;
- (b) if so, the numbers thereof and the main causes thereof;
- (c) the details of the loss of life and property caused by these accidents/derailment during the said period;
- (d) the details of compensation paid to the families of deceased and to those injured; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such accidents/derailments in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-

LIKARJUN): (a) to (c). There has been no increase in train accidents on Indian Railways. There were 186 train accidents during the period July-October 1991 as against 205 during the corresponding period of 1990. The accidents were mainly due to human failure, equipment failure and sabotage. 79 persons (including 58 passengers) lost their lives in these accidents. The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at Rs.5.90 crores.

(d) No compensation has been paid so far. However, a sum of Rs. 7.51 lakhs has been paid as ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of the deceased and the injured.

(e) Some of the important steps being taken to reduce the accidents are induction of technical devices to aid the human element, intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations, monitoring the performance of the staff of critical safety categories such as drivers, guards, station masters, etc., intensive training including psychological checks of staff in operational categories, surprise checks against carriage of inflammable/explosive material in passenger trains, provision of whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs at the approaches of unmanned level crossing and improving visibility for road users and train drivers.

Control of Goitre

816. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons suffering from goitre in the country; State-wise;
- (b) the details of the schemes formulated to control the disease; and
- (c) the amount sanctioned for its implementation?